Exhibit 8

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF NORTH DAKOTA WESTERN DIVISION

Civil Action No. 1:15-cv-00109

CASEY VOIGT AND JULIE VOIGT,

Plaintiffs,

-vs
COYOTE CREEK MINING COMPANY,

L.L.C., a Nevada Limited Liability

Company,

Defendant.

TRANSCRIPT OF

DEPOSITION OF DEWAYNE LOUNSBURY

Taken At
Offices of Baumstark Braaten Law Partners
109 North Fourth Street, Suite 100
Bismarck, North Dakota
March 24, 2017

(APPEARANCES AS NOTED HEREIN)

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21	
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1 (Deposition of **DEWAYNE LOUNSBURY**, a 1 a half, around there. 2 A. Okay. 2 witness of lawful age, taken on behalf of the 3 Plaintiffs in the above-entitled cause, pending in 3 Q. If you do ask for a break, we'll probably the District Court of the United States for the just finish whatever question we're on. 4 4 5 District of North Dakota, Western Division, 5 Can you tell me what you did to prepare for the deposition today? 6 pursuant to Notice of Taking Deposition, before 6 7 7 Denise M. Andahl, a Registered Professional A. Nothing. 8 Reporter and a Notary Public in and for the State 8 Q. Okay. Did you talk to anyone at the mine 9 of North Dakota, at the offices of Baumstark 9 about the deposition or what we'd be talking about Braaten Law Partners, 109 North Fourth Street, 10 today? 10 Suite 100, in the City of Bismarck, County of 11 A. Just talked to these guys here. 11 12 Burleigh, State of North Dakota, on the 24th day of 12 Q. Okay. So other than Chuck and Brian, did March, 2017, commencing at 8:50 a.m., counsel you talk to anyone about the deposition today? 13 13 14 appearing on behalf of the respective parties as 14 A. As far as? hereinbefore indicated:) Q. So Brenden would be one. 15 15 16 Brenden, yes, and Donn. 16 Q. And what did you talk to Brenden and Donn 17 (The following proceedings were had and 17 made of record:) about? 18 18 19 DEWAYNE LOUNSBURY, 19 Α. Just kind of how it worked. 20 being first duly sworn, was examined and testified 20 Q. Did you talk about what you might be asked as follows: 21 21 today? 22 **EXAMINATION** 22 A. Yes. Q. Can you tell me a little bit about that? 23 BY MR. BRAATEN: 23 Q. Will you state and spell your name for the MR. WEHLAND: I have to object because I 24 24 25 record, please. 25 believe the meetings that Dewayne is referring to 5 1 A. Yeah. It's Dewayne Lounsbury. It's 1 involved me, so that would be privileged. D-e-w-a-y-n-e L-o-u-n-s-b-u-r-y. 2 Q. (MR. BRAATEN CONTINUING) Okay. So 2 Q. Have you had your deposition taken before? outside of meetings with the attorneys, did you 3 3 A. No. have any conversations with Brenden or Donn about 4 4 5 Q. Okay. Just a couple of rules. One is I'm 5 the deposition today? going to try to let you finish your answers before 6 No. They just kind of got me – you know, 6 7 I start a question, and vice versa, let me finish 7 8 the question before you answer, and mainly because 8 expect because I'm nervous. 9 she's taking everything down and if we speak at the 9 for the deposition? 10 same time, it's tough for her. So along the same 10 11 lines, it's difficult because in conversation a lot 11 A. Just what I do at work. Q. Okay. of times we're just nodding or saying uh-huh or 12 12 yeah, but you want to try to give yes or no answers 13 13 14 if that's appropriate. 14 A. Okay. 15 15 Q. If you don't understand the question, will lawsuit that brings us here today? 16 16 you ask me to clarify it? 17 A. Not so much. 17 18 A. (Nods.) Yes. 18 19 Q. That's an example. And so if you answer a

I've never had to do this before, so see what to Q. Did you review any documents to prepare A. As far as my documents they showed me, you know, my daily log. And then I seen a picture. Q. Okay. And are you familiar with the Q. Are you aware of what the claims are in the lawsuit that brings us here today? 19 question, is it fair for me to assume that you 20 A. No. Just, I quess, about dust. 21 Q. Can you tell me a little bit about your background specifically in the mining industry? 22 23 Q. Okay. If you want to take a break at any A. I've been an operator for -- since I was 24 time, let me know, I think just to move cars and 19 down in San Diego, and then I started - I 24 25p etherwise. We usually take a break every hour and 25 worked at a - worked at an aggregate plant in DENISE M. ANDAHL **EMINETH & ASSOCIATES** 4 of 43 sheets ED_002864_00005999-00004

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understood that question?

A. Yes.

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Q

- 1 San Diego for four years before I moved up here in 2012. 2
- Q. Okay. 3
- A. And I worked for Fisher Industries for six 4
- 5 months up here, and then I went to North American.
- Q. Starting in San Diego at the aggregate 6 plant, what did you do there? 7
- A. I ran a 992 for them, loader, loading 8 9 rock.
- Q. And then what is the nature of the 10 business conducted by Fisher Industries? 11
- 12 A. They're sand and gravel.
- Q. Did you run a loader there as well? 13
- A. I ran loader, scraper, blade, all kinds of 14 different stuff. 15
- Q. And then what year did you say you started 16 at North American? 17
- A. That would have been in 2013. Moved up 18 19 here in 2012 and then went there in 2013.
- Q. Has all your work for North American been 20 at the Coyote Creek Mine? 21
- A. No. I worked at Falkirk previously. 22
- Q. Okay. What did you do up at Falkirk? 23
- A. I ran scraper and various pieces of 24
- equipment. 25

1

2

Q. Okay. How long were you at Falkirk?

- A. I started in March of 2013 and then until
- we April of, was it, '14? I can't remember. 3
- Whenever we opened over there. Been there almost 4
- 5 two years now.
- Q. To your knowledge, did you start at Coyote 6
- 7 Creek as soon as Coyote Creek started its
- operations? 8
- A. No. 9
- Q. So had they started operations before you 10
- 11 moved there and started working there?
- A. Yes. 12
- Q. When you started working with North 13
- 14 American, did they provide any kind of training?
- A. Yeah, we went through various trainings. 15
- Q. Can you tell me a little bit about those? 16
- A. Went through new miner training, went 17
- through training about, you know, the new mine and 18
- 19 stuff, and just kind of their annual training we go
- through. Since we were at a new mine, we went
- 21 through all the annual stuff, environmental stuff.
- Q. What kind of environmental training did 22
- A. They taught us about the topsoil and the
- 25p subsoil and what we'd kind of be taking, what we

1 expected and stuff like that.

- 2 Q. Did they give you any training specific to
- 3 the equipment that you would be operating?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. Can you tell me a little bit about that?
- A. Well, some of it I was already certified 6
- 7 on at Falkirk, so we kind of just, you know, run
- through it as a group on certain stuff. And stuff
- that we hadn't been trained on, or whatever, we got 9
- certified by a certified person. 10
 - Q. So let's talk a little bit about from the
- 12 time you started at Coyote Creek Mine until now.
- What's your position at Coyote Creek? 13
 - A. I'm a coal systems operator now.
 - Q. Okay. Has that changed since you started?
- A. Yes. I was just a heavy equipment 16
- operator before. 17
- Q. And what's the difference between a heavy 18
- 19 equipment operator and a coal systems operator?
- A. I run the coal plant, and before I just 20 ran various pieces of equipment. 21
- 22 Q. Okay. Prior to becoming a coal systems
- operator, did you run equipment associated with the 23
- coal plant? 24
 - A. No, I didn't run none of it yet.

Q. Okay. And just to be specific, when you 1

- refer to the coal plant, can you tell me what
- you're referring to? 3
- 4 A. The 844 rubber tire and the crusher
- facility. 5
- 6 Q. And this may be just being ignorant, but
- the 844 rubber tire is the dozer; right?
 - A. Yes.
- 9 Q. And so when you became a coal systems
- operator, what kind of training did you get? 10
- 11 A. I had to go through the plant with the
- electricians, then we had the JDP guy there. I 12
- think he was the -- kind of wrote the program for
- 14 the crusher and stuff for my computer. Then Joy
- Global and MSD, whoever does the sizer, they came 15
- out and they walked us through everything and what 16 to expect and all that on there.
- 17
- 18 Q. You mentioned the JDP guy. What does JDP 19 stand for?
- 20 A. I don't know exactly what it stands for.
- 21 It a company name. I don't know.
 - Q. What does the company JDP do?
- 23 A. I think they do like programming --
- computer programming and stuff. 24
 - Q. So he gave you training on the computer

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they give you?

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2 A. Yes.

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- 3 Q. And can you tell me a little bit more
- about that training and the computer program? 4
- 5 A. Well, we walked through what everything
- does on it as far as my computer and the screen and 6
- 7 if we wanted to change anything, like we wanted
- different buttons to work different stuff on the
- 9 crusher.
- Q. How long did the training last on the 10 computer program? 11
- 12 A. We kind of did everything, I think, for
- maybe a week or two. We kind of just not all on 13
- 14 one. You know, we kind of went through the
- crushers and everything. And then he was there 15
- while we ran, you know, to make sure everything was 16
- running good and stuff. 17
- Q. So would he actually be in the dozer with 18
- 19 you?
- A. No. He was down in the room on his 20
- 21 laptop.
- 22 Q. Okay. Would you be communicating with him
- while you were in the dozer? 23
- A. I could talk to him on the radio or I 24
- 25 could go down and talk to him.

- 1 Q. Okay. So other than when you were working
- with the program operating the dozer, did you also
- have some sort of classroom training on the 3
- program? 4
- 5 A. No. Just pretty much in the field.
- Q. And that lasted for about two weeks, you 6
- 7 think?
- 8 A. Yeah. I mean, somewhere around there. I
- 9 mean, I learn every day new stuff out there, so -
- Q. Sure. And then you said someone from Joy 10
- 11 Global came out. Who was that person?
- A. That's the primary crusher company. 12
- 13 Q. Okay. And you said that they did a
- 14 walk-through of everything. Can you explain that
- in a little more detail, please? 15
- A. Yeah, we ran the crusher dry and they 16 checked all their bearing temps and everything, 17
- showed us what to look for, what needs to be
- 19 greased on it, how pretty much the crusher
- 20 operates.
- 21 Q. And can you operate the crusher without
- the computer program we were just talking about? 22
- 23 A. I don't - not to my knowledge. I guess I
- 24 can start it in maintenance mode -
- Okay. 25PG07

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- A. on the actual box in the electrical
- 2 room.
- Q. Okay. So is the training you got from Joy 3
- 4 Global on primarily the mechanical aspects of the 5
 - crusher?
- A. That and the start and stop and how to run 6 7 it in maintenance mode if we've got a problem.
 - Pretty much the function of the machine.
- 9 Q. And how about the -- let me start over.
- Did you receive training related to how to 10
- maintain the coal pile? Start there. 11
 - A. Pretty much I know we had to have it sloped, you know. And other than that, we kind of
- 14 just built it like a regular stockpile, I guess.
- Q. When you say "regular stockpile," what do 15 16 you mean by that?
- 17 A. Just as far as keeping the slopes up and stuff like that. 18
- 19 Q. What specifically do you have to do in
- order to keep the slopes up? 20
- A. Well, they had to be built first and then 21
- they've got to be somewhat packed, you know, so 22
- 23 water doesn't penetrate down through, because that
- can create hot spots. As far as stockpiling and 24
- 25 stuff, we just got to keep them maintained.
- 13
- 1 Q. Is there a specific angle you try to
- maintain for the slope on the pile? 2
- A. Yeah. They try to get like a 3
- three-to-one, is what they try to do. 4
- 5 **Q.** Is there a preferred -- start over.
- 6 Does it matter how much area on top of the
- 7 pile is flat?
- A. I guess I like to keep it flat as far as 8
- 9 for drainagewise.
- Q. How much of a flat area would you prefer 10
- to keep on top of the pile? 11
- A. Pretty much from the wall all the way to 12
- my slope I like to keep it to where the water 13
- 14 drains away from that crusher area. So I guess the
- whole top. 15
- Q. Is there a certain height you need to keep 16
- 17 the pile at?
- 18 A. They like to keep it at like 140 -
- 140,000, so, I guess, heightwise we got a yellow 19
- 20 line on there we don't go past on the wall side.
- 21 **Q.** And why don't you go past the yellow line?
 - A. Because it serves as a berm.
- 23 Q. And when you say "it serves as a berm," do
- you mean that it prevents coal from being pushed 24
- 25 over the wall?

15

DEWAYNE LOUNSBURY 1 A. Well, that and, you know, for trucks and and then see you push that coal into the feeder 2 for me. 2 system. If there aren't any trucks dropping coal 3 Q. Sure. You said you like to keep it at on a regular basis, do you ever start just scraping 3 140,000; is that right? coal off the top of the pile to feed into the coal 4 4 5 A. That's what the - yeah, that's what the 5 facility? 6 company wants it at, I guess. It fluctuates, I 6 A. Yes. I back up to where you guys were at 7 7 mean. and I start my pushes there. 8 Q. When you say 140,000, you mean 140,000 8 Q. Okay. So how do you decide how much coal pounds? 9 you're going to push into the feeder during your 9 A. Tons. shift? 10 10 11 Q. Tons. So 140,000 tons equates to roughly 11 A. Just depends on what they need. Like 12 a certain height on the pile? 12 yesterday they were almost full, so I was just A. Yeah. 13 13 pushing in what the trucks brought. Q. When you say "they," are you referring to 14 Q. Okay. Do you know why the company wants 14 Covote Station? 15 to keep the pile at roughly that height? 15 A. I don't really know why. I don't know if A. Yes. 16 16 it's for - I don't know. Q. Do you check in with the station at the 17 17 Q. If you had to speculate, why do you think 18 18 beginning of your shift every time you work? 19 they would keep it at a certain height? 19 A. Yeah. I call them on the phone or the radio. 20 MR. WEHLAND: Objection. Calls for 20 21 21 Q. And do they tell you at the beginning of speculation. Q. (MR. BRAATEN CONTINUING) You can answer. your shift every day approximately how much coal 22 22 23 A. Huh? 23 they want during that shift? A. I ask them what they have in their barn 24 Q. So Chuck can correct me if I'm wrong, but 24 25 Chuck -- he'll object sometimes today, and unless 25 and I just push what I can. 17 19 1 it's like the situation earlier where it's an 1 Q. Do you know what the maximum capacity of their barn is? 2 attorney-client privilege issue, he's going to 2 A. Yes. 3 specifically say don't answer that. And I'm going 3 to try not to ask you about communications with 4 Q. And so if you know what's in their barn 4 your attorney, but other than that, he'll object, based on what they tell you, do you try to push 5 5 and basically what we're doing is making sure that 6 enough coal through the facility to make up the 6 7 we keep that on the record. But other than the 7 difference between whatever they told you and the 8 attorney-client privilege stuff, he'll object and 8 maximum capacity? 9 A. Yeah, I try to go off of - off their 9 then you still answer the question. 10 So he's going to say the same objection 10 burn. You know, if they're at full burn, I can 11 again, but if you had to speculate -- if you had to kind of figure out what they burn a day in my 11 speculate, why do you think the company would want shift, then I add that to what I think they need. 12 12 to keep the pile at a certain height? Q. Okay. How long is one of your shifts? 13 13 14 MR. WEHLAND: It's impressive how well 14 A. Ten hours. Derrick can tell the future. Objection. Calls for Q. How much coal does the station use at full 15 15 16 speculation. 16 burn during a ten-hour shift? 17 Q. (MR. BRAATEN CONTINUING) So go ahead and 17 Α. I figure around 3,000. 18 Q. Tons?

18 answer. 19 A. I would say for -- you know, in case -- in case - could be for tax reasons. I don't know. I 20 21 really don't know. I would say just in case the 22 crusher breaks, but we've got to push it into the 23 crusher to get it over there, so --24 Q. So when we were up there yesterday, you

25p പ്രവാധ and drop off coal

19 A. Yeah. 20 And when you talk to them at the beginning 21 of your shift, do you ask them if they're at a full burn? 22 23 A. No. Sometimes they tell me if they're 24 derated or not. 25 Q. What does derated mean?

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said I don't have to call, but our policy says I

for lunch, the conveyor continues to run?

Q. Okay. So when you shut down the crusher

And so is the concern that they might not

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coming on.

commonly communicate with Coyote Station?

A. I call them at the end of the day when I

shut down and tell them -- and let them know that

I'll be going home and that there's another guy

Q. And what's the purpose of that call?

5

6

- A. Just to let them know I'm going off shift. 1
- 2 Q. Do they ever call you during your shift?
- A. Yeah, they'll call me if they want to take 3 a belt sample or something like that, or if the 4

plant is full, they'll call me and let me know so I

- can shut down. 6
- 7 Q. Can you describe what you mean by taking a belt sample? 8
- A. They take a sample of the coal off the 9 belt. They got a sampler up on their end that does 10 11 it.
- 12 Q. You said that there's a policy in place at the mine to let Coyote Station know when you're 13 starting the crusher back up; right? 14
- A. I guess I don't know -- it's just what 15 Donn has always told me to do, I guess, said it was 16 our -- you know, we should be doing that. 17
- Q. Do you know why Donn thinks it's important 18 19 to do that?
- 20 A. I would say just in case they're doing something up there. 21
- Q. So because starting up without notifying 22 them could have safety impacts up there? 23
- A. Well, I guess they always tell me when 24 25 their belt is running, they're good to go, but I

just call just as my own safety barrier just in

- case they got -- you know, someone is up there doing something to other belts. 3
- Q. How many times on average would you say 4 you talk to someone at Coyote Station during one of 5
- vour shifts? 6
- A. Probably three. 7
- Q. And who do you call at Coyote Station if 8 you're calling someone? 9
- A. The control operator. 10
- 11 Q. And why do you call the control operator?
- A. Because he starts and stops the belt. 12
- Q. Is that the only job of the control 13
- 14 operator?
- A. I don't know. 15
- Q. How often during one of your shifts does 16 the control operator start or stop the belt? 17
- 18 A. Usually it's running when I get there, and they usually don't shut it down unless they have 19 to, something happens. 20
- 21 Q. Would they ever shut it down without notifying you first? 22
- 23 A. They can, but if they shut the belt down, 24 it will shut my crushers down.
- 25_{PG08}. And so if the belt shuts down, there's an

- automatic shutdown on the crushers?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. Has that ever happened while you were 3
- working at the facility? 4
 - A. Yeah, it's happened.
 - Q. And what was the reason for it happening?
- 7 A. A deer hit the cable switches trying to
- crawl under it. Their belt sampler stopped the
- belt for -- just when it goes to take a sample, it 9
- sometimes stops the belt. 10
- 11 Q. How many times has that happened since
- 12 you've been working at Coyote Creek?
- A. I don't know. Quite a bit. I can't 13
- count. 14

15

- Q. More than 10?
- A. Yeah. 16
- Q. More than 50? 17
- A. Yeah, probably. 18
- 19 Q. Does it happen at least once a week?
- A. It was for a while. They've been trying 20
- to work on it to adjust it. Now I've been having 21
- them -- I slow my feeder rate down, because what 22 happens is there's too much coal on the belt so the 23
- sampler can't get back into place, so I've been 24
- 25 slowing my feeder down to get less coal on the belt
- 1 so they can take their sample, and it's been
 - working now. 2 Q. How often do they take a sample? 3
 - A. I don't know. I think they do it like 4
 - three times a day on day shift, is what it seems
 - like. They don't always tell me they're taking a 6
 - 7 sample. Sometimes they don't.
 - Q. How do you find out that the crushers are 8
 - shut down as a result of the conveyor shutting 9
 - down? 10
 - 11 A. I got a code that will come up on my
 - screen and then my crushers show they're off. 12
 - Q. And do you usually follow up with a phone 13 14 call to the plant when that happens?
 - A. I can call them on the radio, see what's 15
 - going on or they call me, let me know. 16
 - Q. If the conveyor shuts down the crusher 17 18 because the conveyor was shut down, do you always
 - call them or they call you so that you communicate 19
 - when that happens every time? 20
 - 21 A. Yeah.
 - Q. And you mentioned that the conveyor
 - usually gets shut down because of their sampler and 23
 - then you mentioned the deer hitting it. Do you 24
 - know of any other reasons why the conveyor would 25
- DENISE M. ANDAHL Page 24 to 27 of 115